

On this day of independence for Israel we must recognize that a peaceful resolution to the conflict between Israel and its neighbors will only be possible when Israelis and Palestinians recognize their mutual interests and take substantive steps to demonstrate their commitment to a solution. All parties must realize that the only vision for a long-term solution is for two states—Israel, Palestine—to live side by side in security and in peace. That will require hard choices and leadership by Israelis, Palestinians, and their Arab neighbors.

For the Israelis, that means establishing secure and defensible borders, withdrawing from occupied areas, and recognizing the viability of a Palestinian state. For the Palestinians, that means not only renouncing terrorism but cutting ties to terrorists, halting arms shipments, unequivocally recognizing Israel's right to exist and stifling the rhetoric that encourages and glorifies the continuation of Palestinian terrorism against Israel.

In spite of all of its struggles past and present Israel's cultural and artistic activity has flourished, blending Middle Eastern, North African and Western elements, as Jews arriving from all parts of the world brought with them the unique traditions of their own communities as well as aspects of the culture prevailing in the countries where they had lived for generations.

When Israel celebrated its 10th anniversary, the population numbered over two million. During Israel's second decade (1958–68), exports doubled, and the GNP increased some 10 percent annually. While some previously imported items such as paper, tires, radios and refrigerators were now being manufactured locally, the most rapid growth took place in the newly established branches of metals, machinery, chemicals and electronics. Since the domestic market for homegrown food was fast approaching the saturation point, the agricultural sector began to grow a larger variety of crops for the food processing industry as well as fresh produce for export. A second deep-water port was built on the Mediterranean coast at Ashdod, in addition to the existing one at Haifa, to handle the increased volume of trade.

Israel's foreign relations expanded have expanded steadily, as close ties were developed with the United States, British Commonwealth countries, most western European states, nearly all the countries of Latin America and Africa, and some in Asia. Extensive programs of international cooperation were initiated, as hundreds of Israeli physicians, engineers, teachers, agronomists, and irrigation experts and youth organizers shared their know-how and experience with people in other developing countries. Clearly this nation has come far in its relatively short lifetime.

On this day of reflection let us recognize that on the eastern shore of the Mediterranean Sea sits a land of freedom and democracy—Israel. Surrounded by hostility, but a place where freedom and tolerance are alive today. On this day of independence for Israel, I hope all people of good will would join me in praying for peace in the Middle East.

## RECOGNIZING OSTEOPATHIC PHYSICIANS

**HON. J.C. WATTS, JR.**

OF OKLAHOMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, April 17, 2002*

Mr. WATTS. Mr. Speaker, April 18 is National D.O. Day, a day when we recognize the more than 47,000 osteopathic physicians (D.O.s) for their contributions to the American healthcare system. On National D.O. Day, more than 100 members of the osteopathic medical profession, including osteopathic physicians and osteopathic medical students, will descend upon Capitol Hill to share their views with Congress.

I especially am pleased that osteopathic physicians from Oklahoma will be visiting our nation's Capitol and participating in this event. These representatives are practicing osteopathic physicians, staff from the American Osteopathic Association, and osteopathic medical students.

Participants in National D.O. Day are here to talk about how liability insurance rates for all health care professionals—especially those in high-risk specialties and rural areas—are increasing rapidly. Numerous commercial insurers are no longer offering professional liability insurance for physicians and others have stopped covering certain procedures or services. A continuation of this trend will, over time, lead to a shortage of physicians and create access to care problems for our citizens. I share their concerns about access to care. Several States, including my home State of Oklahoma, are facing critical access problems and this trend will only continue to worsen if action is not taken.

For more than a century, osteopathic physicians have made a difference in the lives and health of my fellow Oklahomans and all Americans. Overall, osteopathic physicians provide care to more than 100 million patients each year. Osteopathic physicians are committed to serving the needs of rural and underserved communities and make up 15 percent of the total physician population in towns of 10,000 or less.

D.O.s are certified in nearly 60 specialties and 33 subspecialties. Similar to requirements set for their M.D. colleagues, D.O.s must complete and pass: four years of medical education at one of 19 osteopathic medical schools-, a one-year internship-, a multi-year residency-, and a State medical board exam. Throughout this education, D.O.s are trained to understand how the musculoskeletal system influences the condition of all other body systems. Many patients want this extra education as a part of their health care. Individuals may call (866) 346-3236 to find a D.O. in their community.

In recognition of National D.O. Day, I would like to congratulate the over 1,200 D.O.s in Oklahoma, the 350 students at the Oklahoma State University College of Osteopathic Medicine, and the 47,000 D.O.s represented by the American Osteopathic Association for their contributions to the good health of the American people.

## CARE BY CELEBRATING CHILDREN DAY

**HON. JAMES C. GREENWOOD**

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, April 17, 2002*

Mr. GREENWOOD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Care by Celebrating Children Day on April 26, a day set aside to acknowledge and celebrate the contributions of children that make the world a better place for us all. Today, we invite every adult to visit their child in school, where they will learn about and admire the ways in which those children grow every day. By distinguishing their efforts and accomplishments, this day helps to raise the self-esteem of the children, builds bridges between the community and the school, introduces the children to role models, and teaches the children about their value to the community.

It is also my privilege to introduce Ms. Gail Delevich in conjunction with this day. Ms. Delevich is an elementary school teacher in the Central Bucks School District, in Bucks County, Pennsylvania. She spearheaded this initiative at her elementary school, after she was disheartened at the multitude of negative media coverage of American schools in the wake of the Columbine tragedy and other episodes of school violence. Rather than chastise students or criticize our education system as inadequate to prevent violence, this day celebrates children and their accomplishments as students, athletes, artists and young leaders.

The Commonwealth of Pennsylvania and the State of New Jersey have already declared a day each April as Care by Celebrating Children Day, and I present this remark in hope of expanding the day's recognition to the national level. I hope that this day, which honors, celebrates, and encourages our children, our most precious resource, will empower children to believe in themselves, working hard to prepare for their future and for the future of our Nation.

## A BILL TO STRENGTHEN AND IMPROVE THE BENEFITS PROVIDED TO SMALL BUSINESSES UNDER INTERNAL REVENUE CODE SECTION 179

**HON. WALLY HERGER**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, April 17, 2002*

Mr. HERGER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce the "Small Business Expensing Improvement Act of 2002," legislation to assist small businesses with the cost of new business investment. I am pleased to be joined in this effort by Mr. TANNER, as well as several other of my colleagues on the Ways and Means Committee.

Small businesses truly are the backbone of our economy, representing more than half of all jobs and economic output. We should not take small business vitality for granted, however. Rather, our tax laws should support small businesses in their role as the engines of innovation, growth, and job creation.

On March 19 of this year, President Bush unveiled his small business proposal. I applaud the President for his commitment to our